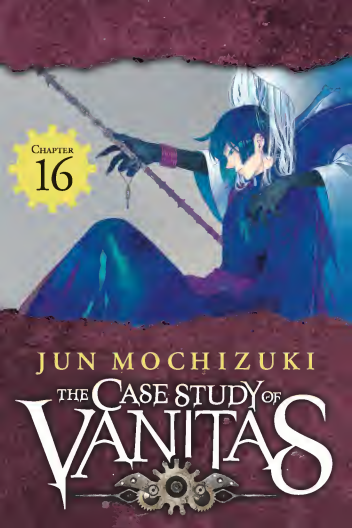


The background of the cover is a dark, textured maroon. In the center, there is a stylized illustration of a character with long, flowing white hair and a dark blue, high-collared coat. The character is holding a long, thin, dark object, possibly a sword or a staff, which extends diagonally across the frame. The character's face is partially obscured by shadows, and they have a serious expression. The overall style is reminiscent of anime or manga art.

CHAPTER

16

JUN MOCHIZUKI

THE CASE STUDY OF

VANITAS

A decorative horizontal element at the bottom of the title. It features a central gear with a circular center, flanked by two smaller gears. On the far left and right are stylized eyes or lenses, each with a circular center and a horizontal line passing through them.



JUN MOCHIZUKI
THE CASE STUDY OF
VANITAS

Memoria 16
Galep AT THE END OF THE BOY.



A SILVER-
HAired
VAMPIRE AND
A HUMAN
WITH BLACK
HAIR.

—THAT'S
RIGHT, TWO
INTRUDERS.



...MAKE
SURE YOU
TAKE THE
HUMAN
ALIVE.

WHATEVER
YOU DO,
DON'T KILL
HIM.



THEY'VE
STOLEN
CLOTHES
FROM
CHURCHMEN.

THE
VAMPIRE
IS A
FORMIDABLE
FOE. BE
CAREFUL.

AND...



OLIVIER'S
GOING TO BE
MAD AT ME
LATER.

TO THINK
I'D HAVE
TROUBLE
WITH A
COUPLE OF
INTRUDERS.



SIGH





...THIS
PLACE WILL
BE YOUR
GRAVE,
VAMPIRE...!



THE TERRAIN
IS ON THE
SIDE OF THE
CHASSEURS!

ALL
RIGHT.
LET'S
GO!









IT'S
AS
IF...



THEY
KNOW THIS
UNDERGROUND
LABYRINTH FAR
TOO WELL!



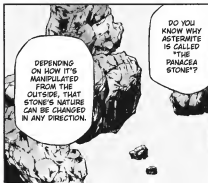
THERE'LL
BE AN ODD
LIGHT, AND
SUDDENLY,
THE SECURITY
AUTOMATONS
WILL BEGIN TO
RAMPAGE.

WE'LL BE
CHASING
THEM, BUT
BEFORE WE
KNOW IT,
THEY'LL HAVE
CIRCLED
AROUND
BEHIND US.

TRAPS
THAT
SHOULDN'T
REACT TO
US ARE
MISFIRING.



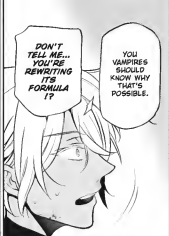






THAT'S
RIGHT

ASTERMITE
IS A MINERAL
THAT CHANGES
ITS PROPERTIES
BY REWRITING
THE WORLD
FORMULA.



DON'T
TELL ME...
YOU'RE
REWRITING
ITS
FORMULA
!?

YOU
VAMPIRES
SHOULD
KNOW WHY
THAT'S
POSSIBLE.



IT'S
THE SAME
AS WHEN
I TINKER
WITH
VAMPIRES'
TRUE
NAMES.

I
TWEAKED
THE
ASTERMITE
THROUGH
THAT PIPE.

IN OTHER
WORDS, THAT
STONE HAS
A PIPE THAT
CONNECTS TO
THE WORLD
FORMULA, JUST
AS VAMPIRES
DO.



...I HOPED
WE'D REACH
OUR DESTINATION
WITHOUT RUNNING
INTO ANY
CHASSEURS, BUT
THESE THINGS
NEVER GO THE
WAY YOU WANT
THEM TO.

SERI-
OUSLY
...



NOW, IF
THE TRAPS
THEY'VE SET
EVERYWHERE
USE ASTERMITE
AS WELL,
WE'LL MANAGE
SOMEHOW.

...I'D
LIKE TO
ASK.

— THERE
ARE
OTHER
THINGS
...

WHAT
IS YOUR
CONNECTION
TO HIM?

WHY...?

HEY.

WHAT
IS THAT
MAN
MOREAU
TRYING
TO
ACHIEVE

HOW DO YOU
KNOW THIS
PLACE WELL
ENOUGH TO
TOY WITH THE
CHASSEURS?

HOW...?

...QUIT
MAKING
THAT
FACE.

DON'T
LIE.

I
ALWAYS
LOOK
LIKE
THIS.



MY
PARENTS
WERE
KILLED
BY A
VAMPIRE.



HUH?



...AND
BECAME
HIS
RESEARCH
SUBJECT.

THAT'S
ALL.

BUT
SOMEWHERE
ALONG
THE LINE,
I CAUGHT
MOREAU'S
EYE...

IT
WAS THE
CHASSEURS
WHO
SAVED ME
FROM THE
VAMPIRE.

THE
CHURCH
STARTED
"TRAINING" ME
TO BECOME
A NEW
CHASSEUR.





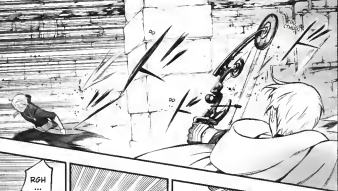












RGH



I CAN'T
TRACK
HIM
VISUALLY!



HE'S
FAST...!



BOYEN
(CROWD)







IF WE
FIGHT HIM,
WE'LL TAKE
DAMAGE.

HE'S
STRONG.
PROBABLY
ONE OF THE
STRONGEST
CHASSEURS.

DON'T
LET YOU
ESCAPE



WITHOUT
LETTING
HIM
FIGHT...?

THAT'S
RIGHT.



WE
CAN'T
AFFORD
TO GET
INJURED
HERE.

!



WHERE I'M
GOING, IT'S
LIKELY THAT
BOTH MOREAU
AND HIS
REINFORCED
HUMANS ARE
WAITING FOR
US.

IF THEY'RE
STILL ALIVE,
THE ABDUCTED
CURSE-
BEARERS ARE
PROBABLY
THERE AS
WELL.



THAT'S
RIGHT.



DON'T
TELL ME...
YOU'RE...



WE'RE
GOING TO
SETTLE THIS
IMMEDIATELY.





THIS SORT OF THING IS THE FASTEST WAY TO HANDLE TYPES LIKE JEANNE AND THAT MAN, THAT'S ALL.

JUST SO YOU'RE AWARE, I DON'T USE METHODS LIKE THIS AGAINST EVERYONE.



THIS
SORT OF
THING IS THE
FASTEST WAY
TO HANDLE
TYPES LIKE
JEANNE AND
THAT MAN.
THAT'S ALL.

JUST
SO YOU'RE
AWARE, I
DON'T USE
METHODS
LIKE THIS
AGAINST
EVERYONE.

THAT
CHATTY
PRETTY
BOY
...

**THAT
THING
WHEN WE
FOUGHT
JEANNE! HE
SAID YOU
HAD ME
TAKE LUCA
HOSTAGE!**

YOU'RE DOING THAT AGAIN!? DANTE TOLD ME ALL ABOUT IT!

...WE'LL LOSE ANY POSSIBILITY OF TALKING THIS OUT WITH LAURENT!

I'M
AGAINST
IT! IF
WE DO
A THING
LIKE THAT,
THEN...



YOU'RE STILL SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT!?

COULDN'T YOU TELL FROM OUR LITTLE EXCHANGE BACK THERE? IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DISCUSS ANYTHING WITH HIM!

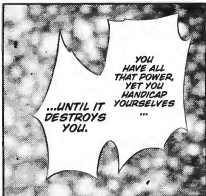


YOU'RE STILL SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT!?

COULDN'T YOU TELL FROM OUR LITTLE EXCHANGE BACK THERE? IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DISCUSS ANYTHING WITH HIM!

Н
У
У
У
У
У
У
У
У
!?







**ENOUGH.
I CAN'T
DEAL
WITH YOU
ANYMORE.**

**VANITAS
...?**



**IF YOU
DON'T LIKE
THE WAY I
DO THINGS,
THEN GO DO
WHATEVER
YOU WANT
ON YOUR
OWN!**



**...SOMEDAY
I'LL GET
PULLED INTO
THE MESS
AND KILLED
TOO!**

**IF I
KEEP
WORKING
WITH
SOMEONE
AS NAÏVE
AS YOU...**



**YOU
CANDY-
BRAINED,
BLOOD-
SUCKING
BAT *!!**

**GO ON.
MAKE
FRIENDS
WITH THE
CLERGY.**



ALL
RIGHT,
VANITAS.

.....
.....
.....
.....

I
RETRACT
WHAT I
SAID.





CALM
DOWN,
CAPTAIN
LAURENT.

FOUL
VAMPIRE!
WHAT
DASTARDLY
MANNER
OF...!

They'll
catch on to
an act like
this in no
time.

ACT?

What
are you
thinking,
you idiot?!

NO,
BUT...I
MEAN...!

IT'S
PROBABLY
A TRAP,
SIR!

I
KNOW I
TOLD YOU
EARLIER.

UH!?

YOU
SAY SUCH
FUNNY
THINGS,
VANITAS.

HUH!?

YOUR
EYES ARE
SERIOUSLY
SCARY!!!!

"TOGETHER,
WE CAN
BEAT
THEM"...

YOU'RE
TELLING
ME THAT'S
ACTING,
GEORGES!?

HEY! YOU!
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING,
LAURENT!?

YOU'RE
REALLY—I
SERIOUSLY
PLANNING TO
USE ME AS A
PAWN!?

HURRY UP
AND SAVE ME!!
I MEAN IT! I'M
BEGGING YOU,
HELP!!!

NRSH...
YOU KNOW,
THAT
REALLY DOES
LOOK...

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

BRUN, JYUN WAKU (DOCK BYONDALL)

!?

VANITAS...
WHAT YOU
SAID EARLIER
THERE'S JUST
ONE POINT
THAT I AGREE
WITH.

WE CAN'T LET LAURENT
START FIGHTING.

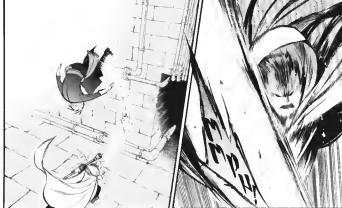
WAIT!
STOP—

HUH
!?

SO...
HAVE A
NICE
TRIP!

RIGHT













*IT'S
NICE TO
MEET YOU,
LAURENT!*



I CAME
UNDERGROUND
WITH VANITAS
IN ORDER TO
INVESTIGATE
A CERTAIN
INCIDENT.



MY
NAME IS
NOB.



I SWEAR
TO YOU THAT
WE DID NOT KILL
THE OWNERS OF
THESE CLOTHES,
NOR DID WE
HURT THEM ANY
MORE THAN WE
HAD TO.

HOWEVER
...



FIRST,
LET ME
APOLOGIZE
FOR INTRUDING
ON YOUR
TERRITORY
WITHOUT
PERMISSION.

...HEY, NO! YOU IDIOT.
WHY ARE YOU
INTRODUCING
YOURSELF?



...

WHAT...
ARE
YOU...



PLEASE,
LISTEN TO
WHAT WE
HAVE TO
SAY!

SO,
PLEASE.





HEAR
US OUT
FIRST.

IT'S VERY
LIKELY THAT
THE MAN YOU
CHASSEURS
ONCE EXILED
IS STILL HERE,
UNDERGROUND.



...I DIDN'T
KNOW
THOSE WERE
HAPPENING.

—VAMPIRE
ABDUCTIONS
...



YOU
BELIEVE
ALL THIS,
CAPTAIN?

ACTUALLY,
IT ALL
MAKES A
LOT MORE
SENSE NOW.



...AND
VANITAS
WAS HIS
RESEARCH
SUBJECT,
AS WELL AS
MY FORMER
COLLEAGUE.

OH,
OH,
OH

NOT
ONLY THAT,
BUT THE
CULPRIT IS
THAT MAD
SCIENTIST,
DOCTOR
MOREAU...

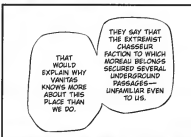


IF WE'D...
BROUGHT
MOREAU'S
NAME UP
FIRST THING,
WOULDN'T
THEY HAVE
LISTENED TO
US THEN?

WHAT
?

...UM,
VANITAS?

WOULDN'T
BE AN
IDIOT.



THAT
WOULD
EXPLAIN WHY
VANITAS
KNOWS MORE
ABOUT THIS
PLACE THAN
WE DO.

THEY SAY THAT
THE EXTREMIST
CHASSEUR
FACTION TO WHICH
MOREAU BELONGS
SECURED SEVERAL
UNDERGROUND
PASSAGES—
UNFAMILIAR EVEN
TO US.



Besides,
if I'd
mentioned
Moreau, I
would have
had to tell
them about
myself as well,
so I didn't
want to.

1000
1000000

TH-
THAT'S
RIGHT.
I'M
SORRY.

THAT MAN
ATTACKED
US WITHOUT
LISTENING
TO A WORD
WE SAID,
REMEMBER?



THAT'S
NOT THE
PROBLEM
HERE!

I WAS
CAREFUL.
I MADE
SURE NOT
TO BREAK
YOUR
ARMS.



**LIKE I
CARE!!**
WHAT ABOUT
YOU? WHAT
WAS THAT
THING YOU
JUST DID?
WERE YOU
TRYING TO
KILL ME?

**HEY! I
ALMOST
DIED
BECAUSE
OF THAT!!**



...ARE YOU
REALLY A
VAMPIRE??

HUH?



...I
GEE.

IS
THAT
RIGHT
...?



THE
ONES YOU
HUNT ARE ALL
DANGEROUS
TYPES,
RAMPAGING IN
THE HUMAN
WORLD.

ALTHOUGH
I'M NOT
SURE
THIS GUY
IS NEEDED.

OF
COURSE
HE IS.

IT'S
JUST...
YOU'RE
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT
FROM ANY
VAMPIRE
I'VE EVER
MET.



INTERESTING.

WHAT A
TERRIFICALLY
INTRIGUING
DISCOVERY!



HUH!?



I'LL
GO WITH
YOU
TWO!

ALL
RIGHT,
THAT
SETTLES
IT!





THE CASE STUDY OF VANITAS

CHAPTER

JUN MOCHIZUKI

TRANSLATION: TAYLOR ENGEL • LETTERING: BIANCA PISTILLO

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